

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 OIC-02 VO-03 SCA-01  
/081 W

-----141219Z 061943 /44

R 141207Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4981  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09725

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, UR, UK

SUBJECT: LONDON "TRIAL" OF YURIY ORLOV

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. JOHN MACDONALD, QC, UNABLE TO SECURE A SOVIET ENTRY VISA TO DEFEND PROFESSOR YURIY ORLOV IN THE USSR, HELD A PUBLIC DEFENSE OF ORLOV IN LONDON ON JUNE 13. WITNESSES AT THE ALL-DAY SESSION INCLUDED VLADIMIR BUKOVSKIY, ANDREI ALMARIK, VITALIY RUBIN, LYUDMILA ALEKSEYEVA, LEONID PLYUSCH, AND NATALYA GORBANEVSKAYA; TOGETHER, THIS GROUP REPRESENTED THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS GATHERING OF SOVIET EXILES THE UK HAS SEEN. AMONG THE NON-SOVIET EXPERTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROCEEDINGS WERE FORMER US ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK, THE REV. MICHAEL BORDEAUX, AND DR. GERRY LOW BEER.

2. WHILE TIMED TO PRECEDE IMMEDIATELY THE OPENING OF THE BELGRADE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE, MACDONALD'S PUBLIC CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFENSE OF ORLOV WAS DESIGNED TO HAVE A ORACTICAL AS WELL AS PROPAGANDA EFFECT; SOVIET LAW REQUIRES ACCEPTANCE BY THE COURTS OF ALL RELEVANT WRITTEN MATERIAL SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH A CASE, AND THE TRANSCRIPTS OF TESTIMONY GIVEN AT MACDONALD'S DEFENSE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE SENT TO MOSCOW PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ALEKSANDR TIKHONOV, WHO IS HANDLING ORLOV'S CASE. (WE ARE OUCHING COPIES

OF THE TRANSCRIPTS TO EUR/SOV AND EMBASSY MOSCOW.) END  
UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE DEFENSE WERE SENT TO LONDON-BASED DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PRESS (NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION) WAS SUBSTANTIALLY REPRESENTED, AND EMBOFF WHO ATTENDED OBSERVED COLLEAGUES FROM SEVERAL WESTERN EMBASSIES. HMG WAS NOT, HOWEVER, OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED IN THE AUDIENCE. FCO SOURCES HAVE CONFIDED TO US THAT THE INVITATION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TO ATTEND OR SEND A REPRESENTATIVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE HAND-WRINGERING IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, WITH STRONG ARGUMENTS BEING MADE BOTH ORO AND CON. A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION WAS FINALLY TAKEN NOT TO ATTEND, AND MACDONALD WAS INFORMED THAT DR. OWEN FELT THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN THE NATIONAL INTEREST WAS BEST SERVED BY THE GOVERNMENT NOT ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH A PRIVATE INITIATIVE. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, HMG IS BRACING ITSELF FOR CRITICISM IN THE PRESS AND/OR IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR THIS POSITION. END CONFIDENTIAL.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, UR, UK, CSCE, (ORLOV, YURIY)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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